

JOYCE ALLAN (1896-1966)

OBITUARY, BIBLIOGRAPHY AND INDEX OF HER NEW SCIENTIFIC NAMES

By

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Plate 8

The death of Miss Joyce K. Allan, after a long illness on August 31st, 1966, removed from our Society our first Patroness and a conchologist and artist of distinction. In private life she was Mrs. H. W. Kirkpatrick (*née* Catherine Mabel Joyce Allan) but she signed her scientific articles and drawings Joyce K. Allan. She was the daughter of the late J. Stuart Allan of Wellington, New Zealand, a well known artist, and a love of drawing was inherent in Miss Allan who was born in Sydney on the 8th April, 1896 and educated at Fort Street Girls' High School. The Australian Museum's conchologist, Charles Hedley, was acquainted with her father and it was arranged that Miss Allan would assist Hedley as a cadet in the Museum, to sort collections and to draw shells to illustrate Hedley's papers. She was thus the first woman member of the scientific staff, being a "temporary assistant" in 1917 and placed on the permanent staff in November, 1920.

Seated before a slate with a Union Jack-like design on it, she would put a spoonful of shell-sand on the centre and, using a camel hair brush, would flick in radial directions the various orders and families of mollusca. Rubbish would be discarded and the residue again sorted into genera and species, labelled, boxed and placed in cabinets. She illustrated some of the Victorian species of "*Bullinus*" (= *Physastra* of recent authors) for Hedley's paper on them in the *Records of the Australian Museum*, 1917, and in 1919, some of her drawings illustrated Hedley's *Wild Animals of the World*, a popular guide to the then infant Taronga Zoological Park. In subsequent years she was to draw probably more than 9,000 illustrations of mollusca for conchologists like Hedley, Gabriel, Hull and Iredale, to say nothing of her own writings. Miss Allan was equally facile in oils, water colour, or black and white drawing (either in line or wash, using lamp-black). In addition to shells she illustrated mammals, fossils, spiders, insects, crustacea, sharks, elasmobranch eggs and fishes for her colleagues. Her drawings appeared in both editions of the *Australian Encyclopaedia* (1925-6 and 1958), the *Australian Junior Encyclopaedia*, the British Museum's *Scientific Report of the 1928-29 Great Barrier Reef Expedition*, the *Australian Museum Magazine*, *Australian Zoologist*, *Proceedings of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales*, *Victorian Naturalist*, our own *Journal* (the first two numbers of which contained articles by her), her own books and elsewhere.

When Hedley left the Australian Museum in 1924, Miss Allan was in charge of the department of molluscs until Mr. Tom Iredale was appointed conchologist. During World War II, Miss Allan was seconded to the Department of National Emergency Services (1942-1944) as assistant to the Superintendent of Air Raids Precautions. Her lecturing and organizing talents were put to use in A.R.P. training (largely by

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Catherine Mabel Joyce Allan (1896-1966)

her screening of 16 mm. films) and in services at Air Force House, Sydney. Returning to the Australian Museum, Miss Allan rose to the position of Assistant Conchologist and was appointed Conchologist (a title later changed to Curator of Molluscs) when Mr. Tom Iredale retired in 1944.

Miss Allan collected in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Lord Howe Island and New Zealand. She rearranged the shell displays in the public gallery of the Australian Museum, wrote newspaper articles and delivered radio broadcasts and popular lectures, and in 1950 her book "Australian Shells" was published, thereby laying the foundation of much of the popularity which shell collecting enjoys nowadays. She attended A.N.Z.A.A.S. congresses in Australia and New Zealand, the Pacific Science Congress in New Zealand in 1949, and in 1953 the International Congress of Zoology in Copenhagen following which she studied shells in the British Museum (Natural History) and in various continental museums.

Miss Allan retired from the Australian Museum in 1956 on medical advice but continued working on shells until prevented by ill-health. She was elected an Honorary Zoologist (later Honorary Associate) of the Australian Museum following her retirement. She is commemorated in the names of several shells (*Allanassa*, *Coralastele allanae*, *Rissoina allanae*), a fish (*Microcanthus joyceae*) and an insect (*Scotinophara allanae*).

The following is a list of her scientific papers and articles in chronological sequence which is followed by a list of her new scientific names. All were printed in Sydney unless otherwise stated. Joint authorships are recorded after titles of papers.

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12. The octopus and its allies.
Vict. Nat. 49 (10), Feb. 1933, pp. 235-242, pl. 15.
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18. Pearl from a freshwater mussel, and notes on the occurrence of pearls.
Vict. Nat. 51 (7), Nov. 1934, pp. 166-169, 2 figs.
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Art Gall. Mus. Assoc. Austr. N.Zeal. News Bull. 1, Feb. 1947, pp. 7-8 [*Achatina panthera* var. *leucostyla*].
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NEW FAMILY, SUBFAMILY, GENERIC AND SPECIFIC NAMES

The first number after each name refers to Miss Allan's paper in the above bibliography, the second number (after the colon) to the page on which the new name first appeared.

albobrunnea, *Dendrodoris* 11: 448
 aurantiomaculata, *Dictyodoris* 5:91
 brassica, *Asteronotus* 5:93
 cameroni, *Archidoris* 72:450
 capricornensis, *Platydoris* 5:91
 conspicua, *Polycera* 5:101
 Ctenopterygidae, new family 63:328
 davisii, *Dendrodoris* 11:447
 dorsalis, *Pleurobranchaea* 11:445
 extraordinaria, *Tethys* 8:319
 gunnamatta, *Dendrodoris* 5:97
 iredalei, *Platydoris* 5:89
 Leptoichthyinae, [new subfamily of fishes] 110:58 & 61
 livingstonei, *Nembrotha* 11:450
 megastigma, *Notodoris* 5:103
 melaena, *Dendrodoris* 5:98
 mirifica, *Propemelibe* 8:314
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 sagittus, *Strombus* 31:121 & 123
 sanguinea, *Aglaiia* 11:445
 serventyi, *Heteroteuthis* 63:319 & 340
 sheardi, *Eledonella* 63:320 & 345
 taronga, *Aglaiia* 11:444
 wardianus, *Asteronotus* 5:95
 whitleyi, *Discodoris* 5:88

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